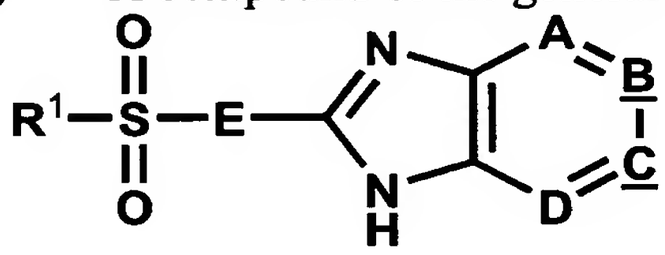
IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

11. (New) A compound of the general formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

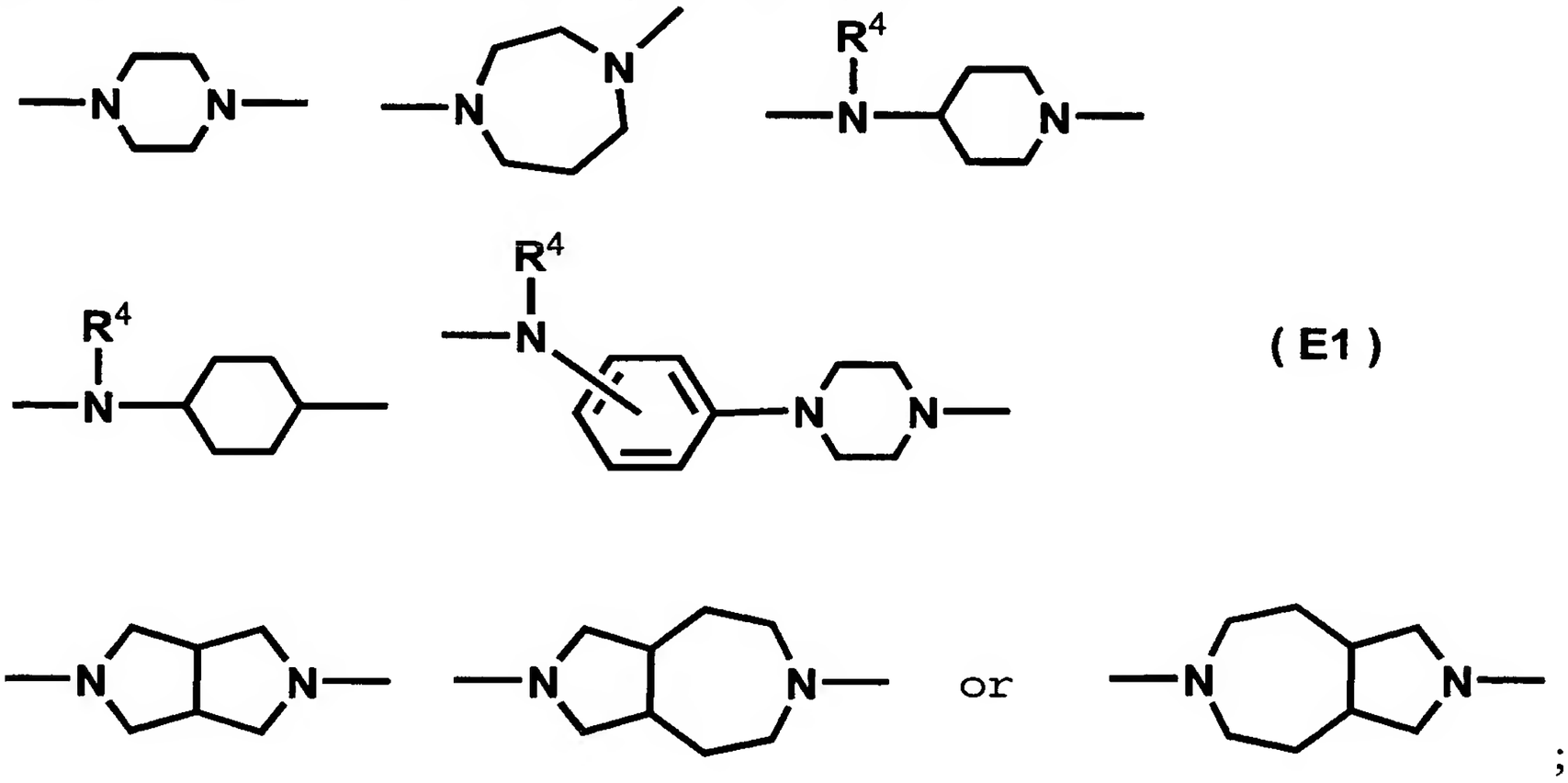
A, B, C and D are each independently a methine group or a nitrogen atom, said methine group optionally having a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a C_3-C_9 cycloalkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyloxy group, a group represented by $-N(R^2)R^3$, and a group represented by $-Q^1$-Ar^1, wherein at least one of A, B, C and D is a methine group;

Ar^1 is an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, each of which may optionally have a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a nitro group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylthio group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a carboxy group, a lower alkanoyl group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, a lower alkanoylamino group and a group represented by $-Q^2$-Ar^2;

Ar^2 is an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, each of which may optionally have a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-

lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylamino group, a di-lower alkylamino group, a lower alkanoyl group and an aryl group;

E is a group represented by the following formulae (E1):



(E1)

;

R^4 is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group; Q^1 and Q^2 are each independently a single bond, an oxygen atom, a carbonyl group or a group represented by –$N(R^5)$-;

R^1 is a lower alkyl group or an aryl group, said aryl group optionally having a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylamino group, a di-lower alkylamino group, a lower alkanoyl group and an aryl group, or is a lower alkylene group linked to linkable position(s) of E;

R^2 and R^3 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, or are taken together to form a lower alkylene group which may be intervened by an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or an imino group; and

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

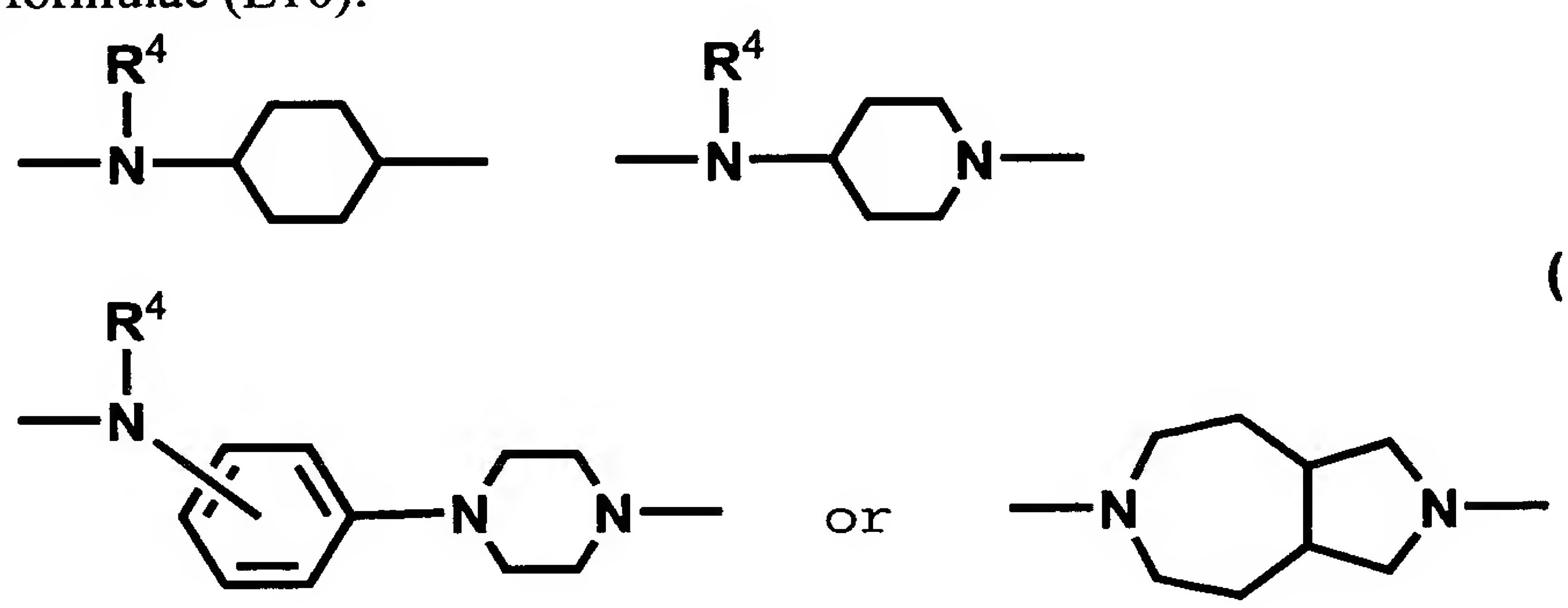
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

12. (New) The compound of claim 1 wherein A and D are each independently an unsubstituted methine group or a nitrogen atom; one of B and C is a methine group having a halo-lower alkyl group or a group represented by $-Q^1-Ar^1$, and the other is an unsubstituted methine group or a nitrogen atom; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

13. (New) The compound of claim 1 wherein A, B and D are each independently an unsubstituted methine group; and C is a methine group having a halo-lower alkyl group or a group represented by $-Q^1-Ar^1$; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

14. (New) The compound of claim 1 wherein A is an unsubstituted methine group; one or both of B and D is a nitrogen atom; and C is a methine group having a halo-lower alkyl group or a group represented by $-Q^1-Ar^1$; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

15. (New) The compound of claim 1 wherein E is a group represented by the following formulae (E10):

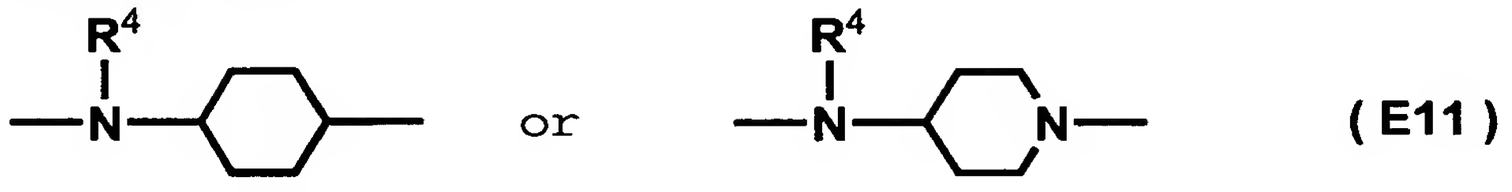


(E10)

;

and R^4 is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

16. (New) The compound of claim 1 wherein E is a group represented by the following formulae (E11):



and R^4 is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

17. (New) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is a lower alkyl group; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

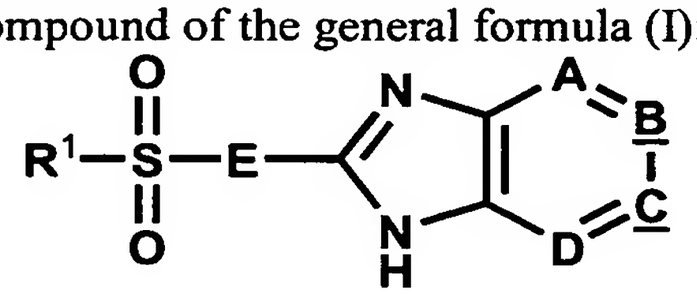
18. (New) The compound of claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) 2-(trans-4-tert-butylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzimidazole;
(2) 2-(trans-4-tert-butylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)benzimidazole;
(3) 2-(trans-4-tert-butylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-5-phenylbenzimidazole;
(4) 2-(trans-4-tert-butylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-5-(2-fluorophenyl)imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;
(5) 8-(trans-4-tert-butylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-2-(2-fluorophenyl)purine;
(6) 8-(cis-4-tert-butylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-2-(2-fluorophenyl)purine;
(7) 8-(trans-4-tert-butylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)purine;
(8) 8-(cis-4-tert-butylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)purine;
(9) 8-(trans-4-tert-butylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-2-phenylpurine;
(10) 8-(cis-4-tert-butylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-2-phenylpurine;
(11) 5-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-2-(trans-4-isopropylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;
(12) 5-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-2-(cis-4-isopropylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;
(13) 2-(trans-4-methylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-5-phenylbenzimidazole;
(14) 5-phenyl-2-(trans-4-p-tolylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)benzimidazole;
(15) 2-(cis-4-methylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)-5-phenylbenzimidazole;

(16) 5-phenyl-2-(cis-4-p-tolylsulfonylaminocyclohexyl)benzimidazole;
(17) 2-{trans-4-(N-methyl-tert-butylsulfonylamino)cyclohexyl}-5-phenyl-benzimidazole;
(18) 2-(4-tert-butylsulfonylaminopiperidin-1-yl)-5-phenylbenzimidazole;
(19) 2-(4-tert-butylsulfonylaminopiperidin-1-yl)-5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)benzimidazole;
(20) 2-(3-isopropylsulfonyl-cis-3,7-diazabicyclo[3.3.0]oct-7-yl)-5-phenylbenzimidazole;
(21) 2-(4-isopropylsulfonyl-cis-4,9-diazabicyclo[5.3.0]dec-9-yl)-5-phenylbenzimidazole;
(22) 2-(1-isopropylsulfonylpiperazin-4-yl)-5-phenylbenzimidazole;
(23) 8-{1-(2-methylsulfonylaminophenyl)piperazin-4-yl}-2-phenylpurine;
(24) 5-phenyl-2-{4-(N-phenylmethylsulfonylamino)piperidin-1-yl}-benzimidazole; and
(25) 2-{4-(1,1-dioxo-1λ6-isothiazolidin-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl}-5-phenylbenzimidazole;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the general formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

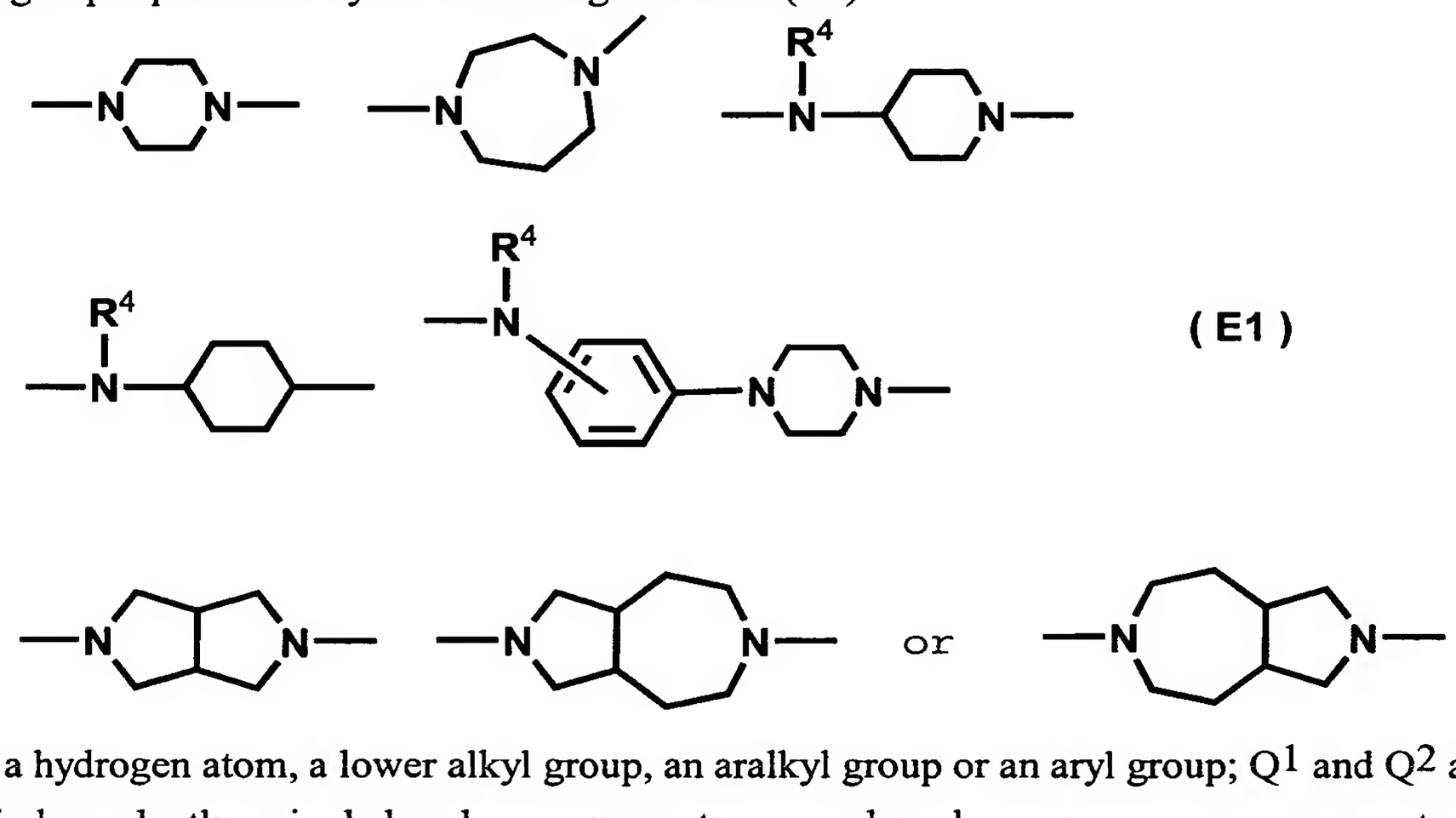
A, B, C and D are each independently a methine group or a nitrogen atom, said methine group optionally having a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a C3-C9 cycloalkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyloxy group, a group represented by -N(R^2)R^3, and a group represented by –Q^1-Ar^1, wherein at least one of A, B, C and D is a methine group;

Ar^1 is an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, each of which may optionally have a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a nitro group, a hydroxy group, a lower

alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylthio group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a carboxy group, a lower alkanoyl group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, a lower alkanoylamino group and a group represented by $-Q^2$-Ar^2;

Ar^2 is an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, each of which may optionally have a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylamino group, a di-lower alkylamino group, a lower alkanoyl group and an aryl group;

E is a group represented by the following formulae (E1):



(E1)

R^4 is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group; Q^1 and Q^2 are each independently a single bond, an oxygen atom, a carbonyl group or a group represented by $-N(R^5)$-;

R^1 is a lower alkyl group or an aryl group, said aryl group optionally having a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-

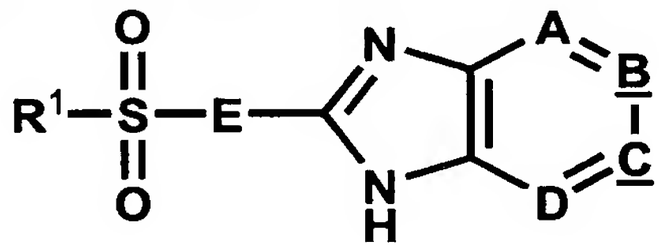
lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylamino group, a di-lower alkylamino group, a lower alkanoyl group and an aryl group, or is a lower alkylene group linked to linkable position(s) of E;

R^2 and R^3 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, or are taken together to form a lower alkylene group which may be intervened by an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or an imino group; and

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, as an active ingredient;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable additive.

20. (New) A method for the treatment of bulimia, obesity or diabetes, which comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a compound of the general formula (I):



(I)

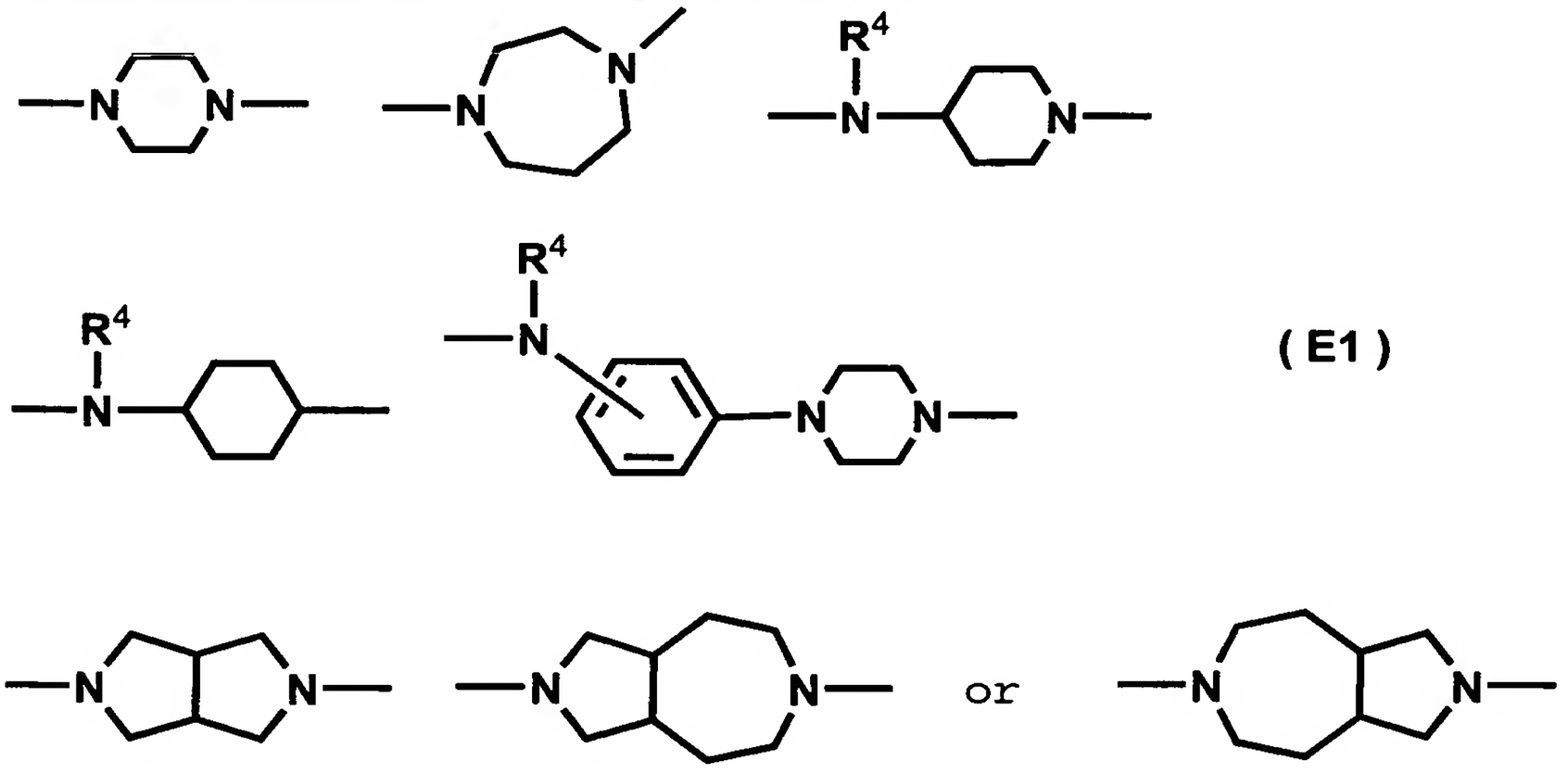
wherein:

A, B, C and D are each independently a methine group or a nitrogen atom, said methine group optionally having a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a C_3-C_9 cycloalkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-lower alkoxy group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyloxy group, a group represented by $-N(R^2)R^3$, and a group represented by $-Q^1$-Ar^1, wherein at least one of A, B, C and D is a methine group;

Ar^1 is an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, each of which may optionally have a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a nitro group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylthio group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a carboxy group, a lower alkanoyl group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, a lower alkanoylamino group and a group represented by $-Q^2$-Ar^2;

Ar^2 is an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, each of which may optionally have a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylamino group, a di-lower alkylamino group, a lower alkanoyl group and an aryl group;

E is a group represented by the following formulae (E1):



(E1)

;

R^4 is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aralkyl group or an aryl group; Q^1 and Q^2 are each independently a single bond, an oxygen atom, a carbonyl group or a group represented by –$N(R^5)$-;

R^1 is a lower alkyl group or an aryl group, said aryl group optionally having a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylamino group, a di-lower alkylamino group, a lower alkanoyl group and an aryl group, or is a lower alkylene group linked to linkable position(s) of E;

R^2 and R^3 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, or are taken together to form a lower alkylene group which may be intervened by an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or an imino group; and

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.